

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 7 and 8 as follows:

The electronic lock 104 also comprises a communication circuit 310 coupled to an input/output port 312 for enabling a control circuit 314 to communicate with the control unit 120. A power supply 316, such as an AC power supply, is coupled to power the control circuit 314. The electronic lock 104 also includes a lock control circuit 318 coupled to control a lock 320. Door sensors 322 are also coupled to the control circuit to provide information regarding the state of the door. The safe 102 preferably includes bill validators 324 and a change dispenser 326 to process currency. Finally, an expansion port 328 is coupled to the control circuit 314 to enable the use of additional peripheral devices, such as a password keyboard, an infrared key, or other hardware. The electronic lock 104 could optionally include a display 330 and a key pad 332 on the outside of the safe. Although the control unit 120 is coupled to an electronic lock 104 through communication network 202[[. The]], the control unit 120 could be coupled directly to the electronic lock 104 or by a local wireless connection according to the present invention.

Page 8, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

Turning now to Fig. 4, a flow chart shows the method for controlling a safe having an electronic lock according to the present

invention. The method of Fig. 4 shows the use of a control unit to provide signals to an electronic lock to control the electronic lock. In particular, an electronic lock is provided for a safe at a step 402. The electronic lock receives signals from a computer at a step 404. The signals could be any types of signals recognized by the electronic lock, such as lock or unlock signal, signals changing access parameters to the device, or any signals necessary to implement the functions described in reference to ~~[[of]]~~ Fig. 10. The electronic lock then controls the safe in response to the signals at a step 406.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 8 and 9 as follows:

Turning now to Fig. 5, a flow chart shows a method for enabling access to a safe by way of an electronic lock according to the present invention. In particular, a control unit such as a computer receives login information from a user at a step 502. The computer enables the user to select an open door option at a step 504 after receiving valid login information. The computer then provides signals to the electronic lock, causing the electronic lock to open the lock of the safe at a step 506 to thereby change the lock from a closed state into an open state. Such signals from a control unit could be provided by way of a telecommunications network in Fig. 2, or locally as shown in Fig. 1.

Page 9, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

Turning now to Fig. 6, a flow chart shows a method for controlling a safe having an electronic lock according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention. In particular, an electronic lock is provided for a safe at a step 602. The electronic lock is coupled to a control unit at a step 604. The coupling could be performed locally, or remotely by way of a wireline or wireless communications network. Similarly, the computer could be coupled to a plurality of safes having electronic locks. Signals are then provided from the computer to an electronic lock at a step 606. The signals could be any type of signals, including any signals necessary to implement features described in reference to Fig. 10 including currency processing and door control. Status signals could then be provided from the electronic lock to the computer at a step 608. Finally, the safe could be unlocked in response to an unlock signal from the computer at a step 610.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 9 and 10 as follows:

Turning now to Fig. 7, a flow chart shows a more detailed operation of a method for controlling a ~~computer~~ safe according to the present invention. In particular, a user accesses a ~~program~~ at a step 702. The user has the option of selecting a "quick access" option at a step 704. Quick access may also be required if a user forgets or loses all available

access information. If the user desires the quick access option, the user enters predetermined information on the display at a step 706. For example, the user could select a predetermined secret location on the display. Alternatively, a user could enter a default user ID, such as 9999. The user then enters an override response key to log in at a step 708. The override response key could be a known number or a number which must be derived, such as a 25 digit alphanumeric number which could be decrypted by a lock manufacturer or service center to provide an unlock code to be entered by the user. The user then enters a back door key at a step 710.